

THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

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OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

President	C. A. Swearengen, Rt 3, Terre Haute, Ind. 47802
Vice President	Eleanor Westmeyer, 60 Gary Rd, Stamford, Conn. 06903
Secretary	Bee Warburton, Rt 2, Box 541, Westboro, Mass. 01581
Treasurer	A. H. Hazzard, 510 Grand Pre Ave, Kalamazoo, Mich. 49007
Directors	W. A. Payne, 7001 Dixie Bee Rd, Terre Haute, Ind. 47802
	Ray Monnie, 383 Chicora Road, Butler, Pa.
	Loring Fullerton, RD 5, Somerville, N J
Editor	Eleanor Westmeyer, 60 Gary Rd, Stamford, Conn. 06903
Publications	
Chairman	Bee Warburton, Rt 2, Box 541, Westboro, Mass. 01581

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Considerable time has elapsed since the last letter to you and much of interest has occurred. A convention, among other things, at which we became better known as an organized section and where several members met others who were, until then, strangers to them except for a name. All present were, I think, well paid for the time spent in Chicago. I would call it a very successful convention.

We gained an additional forty-five days of time for the evaluation of Japanese irises by the judges as they now have until August 15th to return ballots on our beloved Japs. This will allow those in the northern states and Canada to bloom and be seen and reported on in time to be counted. This has been a handicap until now.

Our rules for the evaluation of Japanese irises, both bench and garden, have been cleared for publication in the new Handbook for Judges that will be published by the AIS.

At long last, we now have a member, Mr. W.A. Payne, who has been awarded the Hybridizers' Medal. This was well warranted and will be one of if not the most cherished of his possessions.

More members are doing a bit of "pollen daubing" and that can only lead to active hybridizing and that we need. It is as easy with Japanese irises as with any other kind and easier than some and those pods with sometimes a hundred seed really pay you for your efforts. Make a few crosses next year. You will never regret having done so.

We need many more judges who are qualified to judge Japanese irises. Talk to your RVP about including these irises in the judge training program in your Region. It is in the best interest of all that judges know all of the various irises that grow in their area. I think that the time will come when judges will be rated in accordance with how well qualified they are in the various sections of the genus. This will make the title mean a greater honor than it does now.

Don't forget previous admonitions about mulching all new plantings if you live in the zone where freezing occurs.

Try to get a new member by or before spring. LET US GROW!

Yours for more and better Japanese iris,

C. A. Swearengen

SEE THE PRESIDENT!

Don't miss the picture on page 80 of the October AIS Bulletin. A mighty nice likeness of our President Bob.

A PAGE OUT OF HISTORY

C. A. Swearengen

Often, in searching through our belongings, we find a leaf from a book that contains considerable of interest to us, although the book with the rest of the narrative is missing. Such is this. It contains much of interest to all growers of the loveliest of all irises, the Japanese.

Mr. W. A. Payne, living at Terre Haute, Indiana, purchased his first iris rhizomes in 1910. These were not the beauties now available to all. They were Florentina Alba, Germanica and derivatives of the early crosses. This started a hobby which, after a removal of residence to a rural location with acreage, grew, by 1919, to commercial proportions along with his chosen professions of nurseryman and landscape architect. This combination was followed profitably and with increasing interest until 1930. By this time the nursery business had grown to such proportions that it required the greater portion of his time. Also, then the depression had caused such a slump in the demand for bearded irises that the commercial growing of them was discontinued.

Five years before, in 1925, he had seen advertised in a catalog from the Hobbs Nursery at Bridgeport, Indiana, another kind of iris, the Japanese. Being of an inquisitive turn of mind and interested in anything comparatively new that could be used in perennial plantings, he ordered his first four Japanese irises. These included Uchiu and Mahogany, the latter still in commerce. His interest grew and in 1928 he bought ten more from the Flowerfield Plant and Bulb Company, then operated by Chiids. In the same year F. B. Meade imported 20 varieties from Japan and started to grow them at Ft. Wayne, Indiana. In 1931 Mr. Payne, quite interested now in these beauties, wrote to Mr. Meade, then a director of the American Iris Society, as to the possibility of his acquiring some of these introductions. Mr. Meade mailed a folio of paintings that had been sent to him from Japan and from these, six were purchased. Later a few others were added to his collection and from this group came the exclusively American strain so suited to our gardens. Like Topsy, this hobby grew and grew. Hybridizing "was on" in earnest. A changing market and the inability to secure adequate qualified employees gradually closed the tree nursery and he was able to devote all of his time to the breeding program.

In 1950 he registered and introduced 10 varieties and has continued to breed, improve and select the best until the present list contains 92 introductions and 27 "prospectives" that are undergoing the 3 to 5 year test that all get before they are introduced.

The size of his planting varies as the orbit of a space capsule, now high, now low, governed by weather and other factors that affect the receptiveness of the blossoms to pollen, which, in turn governs the number of seedlings planted each year. The largest year saw 11,000 plants, 5,500 of them seedlings. This year's planting will contain over 1300 seedlings and an unknown number of divisions, as planting will continue as long as the weather permits. This, along with the plantings of the two previous years will total over 5,000 plants, which is a sizable planting.

It has been said that a prophet is not without honor except in his own country but in the present case this is not so. In 1963 Mr. Payne was awarded three medals, Gold, Silver and Bronze, at the International Show at Hamburg. This year the AIS board of directors voted to award him the Hybridizers' Medal; and more recently, notice was received that the judges at the International at Vienna had awarded a Silver medal to The Great Mogul and a Bronze to Confetti Shower. Three of his introductions: Cresting Waves, Garden Enchantress and Strut and Flourish, were voted Honorable Mention this year. Honor both from without and within his own country!

We give him our heartiest congratulations and wish him many more fruitful and happy years.

POT CULTURE OF JAPANESE IRISES

Shuichi Hirao

In most of the gardens in Japan, the Japanese irises are planted in the ground for landscaping. Many of the plantings are similar to those at Swan Lake in Sumter, South Carolina. In the blooming season, they are magnificent indeed and are very popular among the people. The varieties in these gardens are old Edo ones, or sometimes they may be mixed seedlings. These simply flowers harmonize with natural surroundings better than the large-flowering Higos.

The practice of pot culture is probably less than ten percent of the total cultivation of Japanese Irises in Japan. From the fancier's viewpoint, Edo varieties are not worth potting. They look better in an open field than in a pot.

Higo varieties have been developed for potting since their earliest days of cultivation. Around 1841, a landlord in Higo, a small district in Kyushu Island, which is one of the main islands of Japan, south of the main island, Honshu, brought back some of the varieties grown in Edo, which is now Tokyo City, and distributed the varieties to his retainers. He ordered them not to plant these irises in such dirty places as ditches or swamps, as he considered Japanese irises valuable and noble plants. His retainers tried potting them and succeeded in growing them. On arranging the potted plants in a room when in bloom, they found the irises looked better in front of a gold panel. In selecting their seedlings, they discovered the mystery of the movement or the "act" of the flower and were fascinated by it. The "act" may not be observed outdoors as wind and sunshine disturb the natural movement.

A well-grown potted Higo, when taken into a room at the early stage of bloom, will unfold the petals quietly one after another. On the first day of the three-day life, the bloom may seem rather small although the petals are rather thick. In the case of a six-petaled flower, the inner three may stand erect for a while which makes the whole appearance of the flower unusual. The petals enlarge ceaselessly until the afternoon of the next day, during which the whole appearance of the flower will change hour after hour. The fancier will be unable to leave the flower until the flower ends its three days of life. Watching a flower in this way leaves an impression that will last for a lifetime.

Some of the Ise varieties do act. I do not mean, though, that all Higos do perform in this way. Some of them may not. Edo varieties do little.

Japanese irises are good plants for potting. It is easy to bloom them in either small or large pots. A single fan potted from July until September in a 4-inch pot will form at least one bloomstalk in the next year and bloom normally. If one finds the plant overgrown for the 4-inch pot, he may repot to a slightly larger one. In our exhibitions, Japanese irises are staged in 6.5 to 7 inch pots.

Soon after the bloom is over, which is usually early July here in Japan, the potted plants are pulled out of the pots. The spent bloomstalk is cut off at the base and the rhizome is cut longitudinally with sharp scissors to divide the clump into two. Then each division with two or three fans on it is divided again into single fans. Each single fan may have a small piece of the old rhizome, but in many cases the fan lacks roots although a new sign of roots is noticed at the base of the fan. There is no need to worry about the lack of roots, as many new roots will come out in some weeks. The leaves should be cut back to about 6 inches. If the fan is a well-grown one with more than seven green leaves, the potted plant will form at least two bloomstalks the next year. If the fan is tiny with two or three feeble leaves, it will produce one bloomstalk, if it is well fed after becoming established.

The soil in which to pot the divided fan should be poor acid soil. Sphagnum moss is a good medium for the amateur. It may be used in the same way as it is used for orchids. Recently sawdust has proved successful. It should be boiled with hot water to remove the tannin which may be harmful to the roots. Fresh sawdust can be used if treated this way. If the dark brown water in which the sawdust is boiled is discarded immediately, the sawdust can be used at once. If the amount of sawdust is too large to be boiled, it is piled with any suitable agent for fermentation for a few months. The heat of fermentation will inactivate the tannin. Any sort of wood is said to be good for the compost and this seems to be true.

The potted plants should be kept always in shallow water. This practice is most important. Japanese irises survive droughts in summer and can live in water all the year around; but if a newly potted plant is treated alternately with watering and drought, the plant will soon rot and die. Since the potting season is summer, and the small pot may fail to retain enough moisture, a pool is essential to keep the pots always well watered. Spread a sheet of vinyl film on the ground, holding the ends with a piece of wood or any other material suitable for the purpose. Fill with water to a depth of 1 to 1.5 inches and arrange the potted plants in the pool so formed. Slight shading will encourage the formation of new roots, but is rarely practiced in Japan. To supply water to the pool is all that is needed for some weeks. Fertilizer should be strictly avoided until the new roots grow enough to accept it, which takes at least three weeks after planting. In some cases the potted plants look unhappy with dying outer leaves, but do not worry. After three or four weeks, the potted plants will recover and set up tremendous growth, if fed little by little. At the end of the fall season, a tiny potted plant may surpass a big one left in the garden.

After three or four weeks in a pot, the center leaf of a fan will be erect and vivid. This is the time to begin feeding the plant. In Japan, some growers use rapeseed meal, the component may be similar to cottonseed meal which is the residue after extracting the oil; others may use granules of balanced chemical fertilizer. Liquid fertilizer is especially effective on plants grown in sawdust.

The plants respond well to feeding at this time and in a few weeks, the pot may seem too small for the plant. Repotting in a larger pot may be necessary. A well fed plant will continue to be green until a hard frost kills the foliage. Such a vigorous plant will promise wonderful blooms next year.

These potted plants may be kept in water all the year around; but it is advisable to reduce the depth of water when the severe summer period ends, to encourage better root growth and ripening of the rhizome. To feed them well before dormancy sets in is thought to bring better success in the coming year.

In winter the pots should be mulched to protect them from over-dryness and being heaved by frosts. In spring, when new shoots start into growth, feeding should be resumed and should be continued until a few weeks before blooming. Then all feeding should be stopped. Excess of spring fertilizer may cause the rot of petals.

After the bloom, the clump may be pulled out of the pot and either repotted in a larger container or divided and started over. After passing through the summer in a pool, the plant may be planted in the ground. This is a good way to start plants that are divided in the summer.

Sawdust planting is recommended to anyone who intends to ship plants, because such plants may be mailed without disturbing the roots, thus insuring better success.

JAPANESE IRIS SHOW

Kalamazoo, Michigan, June 26-27, 1964

Arthur H. Hazzard, cochairman

The second Japanese Iris show to be staged by the Southwestern Michigan Iris Society took place in the Community Room of the crosstown office of The American National Bank and Trust Company of Kalamazoo, Michigan, on June 26 and 27, 1964.

There were close to 300 entries but not all in competition. The attendance was approximately 200, limited somewhat by the location, about a mile off the beaten path and the fact that some people thought that the week-long commercial exhibit of 33 varieties at the downtown lobby of the Bank constituted the show. Of particular interest was the satisfactory performance of plants in full bloom, taken from the field, potted and put on display. It seems not generally known that Japanese Irises may be used in this manner for interior or patio beautification. As cut flowers, they are also very satisfactory for if given a chance, secondary buds open and continue to show all of the attributes of the first blooms except, possibly, size.

There were six entrants and the quality of the specimens was high. Ribbons awarded were 12 blue, 8 red and 2 white. The Queen was Royal Pageant, a Marx introduction, grown by Mr. Archie Vella, a newcomer in Japanese Iris circles.

He uses bone meal exclusively for fertilizer, waters daily and you should see the size of blooms and length of stem! How about that calcium residue from both fertilizer and water? Do I hear someone say "in spite of" instead of "because of"? He plans to increase his planting and we expect considerable advancement in 1965. Mr. Riley Lynch of Bangor, Michigan, also entered excellent specimens as heretofore and placed three Marx seedlings in the Queen's Court. The other Court members were Rose Anna and a Hazzard seedling by Mr. Douglas Allen and White Chiffon by Mrs. Carl Bacon.

This year, the only additional Japanese atmosphere was supplied by seven invitational, noncompetitive arrangements made by trained personnel secured by Mrs. Walter J. Temple who so ably supervised our competitive arrangement section in 1963. Punch and cookies were served on a free will basis and door prizes and courtesy awards were named Japanese Iris plants supplied by A. H. Hazzard. The Mall planting consisted of 26 blooming clumps and they continued to bloom. A commercial exhibit by Van Engen's Nursery, of nearby Galesburg, and an Educational Exhibit by A. H. Hazzard attracted considerable attention and both received AIS Awards.

As compared with last year, the high quality of entries was maintained, entrants increased and there was some financial profit. As to whether this will become an annual affair, we cannot say but we have strengthened our belief that Japanese Iris shows are feasible and should be encouraged in various areas. Davenport, Iowa, is planning a show for 1965 and from what we hear from Frank Foley, it should be a winner.

An interesting sidelight to our show is the fact that the Mayor of Numazu, Japan, sister-city of Kalamazoo, has approved the idea of registering a worthy seedling as "Numazu." Hazzard seedling #113 has been selected as it won a best Seedling of Show award and commendation from two accredited judges. It is an 8 inch single, pure white, 30 inches in height, medium early, and comes from Catherine G. Childs X Gold Bound. Name reservation has been filed and the name is believed to be available. It is planned that, eventually, sufficient stock for a respectable planting will be sent to Numazu, Japan.

Because the show began on Friday, when many members were otherwise employed, the personnel of the staging committee was rather limited and special commendation is due Mrs. Roy Cronkite, Mrs. Jacob Mein and Mrs. Forrest Samson. They received Japanese Iris plant awards along with the others who prepared the arrangements.

The cooperation of the American National Bank and Trust Company, the City Commission, the City Parks Department and the Kalamazoo County Chamber of Commerce was again much in evidence and we intend to merit their continued interest and good offices.

JAPANESE IRIS GARDENS IN TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Nancy Crist

Visiting Mr. Payne's garden during iris blooming time is an occasion both my husband and I eagerly anticipate each year. In his garden, I always find a

peaceful serenity which eases the tensions of everyday life. Here is a home and garden built with the loving hands of its owner.

The house is nestled among the shrubbery, vines and flowers... *Euonymus patens*, Bayberry bushes, Dogwood trees, low-growing Waukegan Junipers, Tiger lilies, climbing hydrangea, Japanese Ivy... which completely hide it from the main road. A circular driveway winds around behind the house and angles back out to the highway. Across the driveway directly behind the house stands a huge stately oak tree; then a row of peony bushes just west of the tree.

Starting from the back of the house, we proceeded south across the driveway following a path (past a building near a large persimmon tree) which leads to a planting of Mr. Payne's named varieties of Japanese Iris. Here, as you will find in the other two beds, there are grassy walkways between the rows (running west to east); each plant is spaced so as not to crowd its neighbor on either side. This year all the varieties were putting on a show to widen the eyes of any flower lover; but an artist (especially one who really liked irises) would notice the way the colors were blended or stood out individually on the same flower; the regal bearing this magnificent strain of irises has; the different amount of petals (3, 6, 9, 12, or more); kinds of centers (crested, plain, monstrosa, rosette; substance and texture, size and form, bud count and branching (candelabra or regular). Looking out across this lovely planting of Japanese Irises, I thought to myself this must be one of the many "wonders" of this day and time. A few which I noted were:

MIDWEST SPLENDOR: seven bloomstalks. Six-petaled flower 8 to 10 inches across, uniform blackish-violet self, broad ruffled petals, heavy substance, 40 inches high, 2 branches, 5 buds.

ORCHID MAJESTY: seven bloomstalks. Large six-petaled drooping convex form, overlapping ruffled falls of pale amparo purple with a large blended halo of hortense violet and styles of dull magenta-purple, smooth silky finish, two branches, three buds, 46 inches high.

SEAFURY: 15 bloomstalks. Large six-petaled stiffly horizontal flower, white basic color with tinting of light violet that changes as the flower ages to pure white with sharply etched spectrum-violet veins with slight violet halo and yellow signal patches, serrated styles spectrum-violet splashed white at tips, 2 branches, 4 buds, 41 inches high.

DANSEUR NOBLE: 18 bloomstalks. Three elongated petals without halo, veined pleona violet, standards and styles litho purple with prominent white edges, huge, 42 inches high.

STRUT AND FLOURISH: 8 bloomstalks. Large six-petaled flower of blackish-violet blending to light violet at the edge of large yellow signal patches, styles to match, network of blackish-violet veins overspread the petals. 45 inches high.

IVORY GLOW: 9 bloomstalks. Six-petaled, warmly tinted all white, yellow signal patches with yellow veins extending out on petals, cream color styles, one branch.

DEBONAIR PRINCE: 4 bloomstalks. Large three-petaled, amethyst-violet falls, halo and veins of dark violet, pointed standards cotinga purple with light edging, styles amethyst-violet with white hairline, 3 branches, 8 buds.

- SKY AND WATER: 8 bloomstalks. Large six-petaled light violet coloring at center blends to pallid violet at edge with veins of lighter tint...luminous sky blue color effect, styles yellowish-tipped same color as petals, waxy texture, 42 inches high.
- SILVER SURF: 17 bloomstalks. Six very ruffled petals, pure white etched with numerous dark veins, compact ball-shaped center...ruffled styles of violet ultramarine tipped white.
- IMPERIAL ROBE: huge six-petaled flower of velvety royal purple to mulberry purple at edge, broad foliage, large straight stems, 50 inches high.
- FLYING CRANE: 12 bloomstalks. Medium size, three-petaled, falls light basic color with heavy veins of royal purple, lightly sanded halo, spatulate-shaped standards are Rood's violet delicately edged white, styles royal purple, 45 inches high.
- DAZZLING DEBUTANTE: 4 bloomstalks. Huge three-petaled flower, falls hyacinth-violet with small white halo and very sharp white radiating veins, elongated standards and long branched styles are white with stained edging of hyacinth violet, 44 inches high.
- FALL AND FROST: medium size, six-petaled, creped petals with white halo are tinted pale violet-blue overlaid with light uniform coating of white hence appearance of frost, edges of cream colored styles same tint, medium height.
- WIND AND SEA: multiple-petaled, medium color with ruffled and rolled petals, heavily veined spectrum-violet, dark center, good substance, 36 inches high.
- PILLAR OF FIRE: 7 bloomstalks. Striking three-petaled; large, rounded, ruffled, widely flaring falls blend from pure white around signal to solid blackish-purple at edges with broad white veins extending almost to edge; ruffled standards and styles are same; 46 inches high.
- GARDEN ENCHANTRESS: 19 bloomstalks. Large, ruffled six-petaled flower with tinting of pallid violet and white center, broad white veins form striated color pattern, white styles are tipped pallid violet, crepey texture, 38 inches high.
- LILAC FAIRY: 8 bloomstalks. Six petals are pale hortense-violet, halo and veins petunia violet, fiddle-shaped styles lighter tint, convex flower of good size and lovely form, 39 inches high.
- MY FANCY: 20 bloomstalks. Curled and slightly ruffled multipetaled, dark violet color, styles light edged, silky texture, small to medium-size flower, 38 inches high.
- WINGED CHARIOT: 16 bloomstalks. Large three-petaled, heavy substance, broad widely flaring falls are slightly sanded pansy violet, long narrow, slightly ruffled white standards feathered and veined same color forming a cup-shaped center with the milk-white styles.
- GAY FIREFLY: 16 bloomstalks. Small, ruffled slightly elongated falls are light with prominent dark violet veins, elongated oval standards are Rood's violet bordered white, styles solid dark violet with light edging, 28 inches high.
- DANSEUSE: 15 bloomstalks. Large six-petaled flower, smooth satin texture, extra thin substance, needs shade to retain its lovely coloring of white blending to appleblossom pink (pale amparo purple), large winged styles are white with their curled tips tinted this lovely pink color, light frosty green foliage, 50 inches high.

IVORY MANTLE: 8 bloomstalks. Good substance; large, overlapping, ruffled pendulous falls are ivory-white with faint tracing of violet colored veins; ruffled pointed lilac standards; milk-white mauvette sanded styles flare outward; 38 inches high.

SHADOW PLAY: 5 bloomstalks. Large six-petaled form, spectrum violet blending outward to a light violet basic color, styles spectrum violet, 40 inches high.

At the northeast end near the edge of this bed are the Japanese irises of the future. They are growing in flats raised a short distance from the ground. On a more recent trip, August 23, we found these baby seedlings had grown by leaps and bounds... nice healthy-looking babies.

Going east, we walked past a row of apple trees of different varieties and one sugar pear tree near the far end of the row. This formed a divider between the bed we had just left and the one we were approaching. The first part was a trial bed, four feet wide, rows running north to south, for two-year old seedlings. I noticed several iron stakes marking choice seedlings to be saved for further observation. Next were seven trial rows of seedlings; also a four-foot propagating bed for named varieties. Mr. Payne grows his choice seedlings at least three years or even longer before registering them. The seedlings and named varieties, which are to be saved, will be moved this year; and this entire area ploughed under. Some of the seedlings which I found interesting were:

- #1066: large six-petaled flower of pale amparo purple (orchid pink... more on the pink side), very slight blue halo, yellow signal, 2 branches plus terminal, 6 buds, 6 bloomstalks. This may prove to be Mr. Payne's best pink to date.
- #846: huge flower 8 to 10 inches across, red-purple color, six-petaled, one branch 7 bloomstalks.
- #854: pale blue, darker blue halo, same color veins on petals, yellow signal, ten bloomstalks.
- #887: large three-petaled flower of dull dark purple... near approach to brown coloring.
- #897: six-petaled, two branches, dull dark purple, large bloom, buds dark reddish-brown, 14 bloomstalks, another approach to brown coloring.
- #991: royal purple self, nine petals, all having the same form.
- #770: large, six-petaled, well proportioned flower, heavy substandard, semi-velvety dark violet self, three long branches plus terminal, three buds on terminal with two buds on each branch... total nine buds.

Walking across the driveway and a little farther over opposite the above bed is another planting, which also is located just east of the house. It is bordered on the south side by huge Japanese yews, 14 to 15 feet high, and on the west and east sides by even taller Canadian Hemlocks. Toward the front of the bed, about midway, is a huge American Red Cedar (select variety), and also an evergreen shrub. The irises here are prospective seedlings for introduction, select one-year plants, specimens, surplus numbered seedlings, surplus named varieties, and some of Dr. Hirao's varieties. Rows run east to west and are approximately 150 feet long. All irises are mulched with ground corn cobs, which not only preserves moisture, but also makes a neat-looking bed.

All seedlings and named varieties were exceptionally nice here; and should be better still next year. I have noted the following:

#931: large six petaled flower, red violet, slight royal blue halo, yellow signal. Huge three petaled flower 10 to 12 inches across, Glory Red purple, very beautiful.

Six-petaled flower, royal violet halo spreads out to red violet, yellow signal patches, 1 branch, 3 buds, 36 inches high.

#1245: huge, six-petaled flower 10 inches across, dull dark purple. Jim and I thought this the best seedling and the nearest approach to brown.

SEAFURY: was magnificent here, too

NIGHT BLIZZARD: my husband thought this one superb. Large, six-petaled, amethyst violet, 2 long branches, 45 inches high, a beautiful splashed and dappled variety. Reminds me of a dark night with a heavy snow falling.

VENETIAN VELVET: large size, distinctive form, stiff substance, fluorite violet with blackish veins; appears jet black from distance; rich velvety texture makes it outstanding in the Japanese iris line.

WINDSWEPT BEAUTY: 12 ruffled and curled petals, large and convex shape, true peony type flower, manganese violet with spectrum violet halo, 40 inches high.

Following the east row of Canadian Hemlocks to the north end, there is a path leading to another part of the garden. Here there is a huge Chestnut Tree with native holly bushes growing in a row out from the tree. There are also day-lilies planted in front of the holly bushes. A short distance from these beauties is a small field of hardy sweet peas. There were very lovely, colors being rosy-red, pure white, and a variety that has both colors on one flower.

Again we cross the driveway, this time from east to west. This area is to be the new bed for the baby seedlings and other irises. Near the south end of this "future" bed is a very unusual tree. It is at least fifty years old or more... Swiss Stone Pine (*Pinus cenbra*), select type. This is indeed a magnificent tree, one it was a privilege to see.

This brought us near the back of the house... we had made a complete circle. Many other varieties of trees and shrubbery grace this place and add to its peaceful surroundings.

This year we were privileged to visit Mr. W.E. Ouweneel's garden with Mr. Payne. For those who haven't visited this garden, here are the directions from Terre Haute: go east on Indiana 42; about a half-mile east of the airport, Indiana 42 turns southeast; starting at this turn (Stephen's Store) go 1.7 miles southeast, cross the bridge, turn right near bridge and continue southeast on the black top to the fourth mailbox; turn right in lane and follow it to house.

Entering the lane you will notice a few blueberry bushes on the right side. A little further on there are large beds of roses, one on each side; still other roses and shrubs scattered along the lane to the house. Here, too, the house is nestled among the trees, most of them being hickory. A short distance out from the house is a stainless steel sundial placed on a round millstone located near a large locust tree. All the letters and numbers, polishing, etc. on the sundial

were done by Mr. Ouweneel, who is a retired chemist. The words read, "No Man Knows How Much Time He Will Have Tomorrow." These words are so very true.

Just beyond the sundial is a rather steep bank. A path angles down the side of the bank, then levels off before crossing a wooden planktype bridge which spans a deep ravine. The path then angles to the left, passing a picnic table and benches located under two large hickory trees, before reaching the pond. The path then crosses the dam at the west end of the pond and follows along the north bank. All around the edge of this pond Japanese irises are planted.

The pond is about 30 feet wide near the dam and it extends 60 feet east up the hollow. The banks are about 6 feet above the water level; and the terrace in which the irises are growing is about 6 inches above water level. The pond was constructed perhaps 50 to 60 years ago to water cattle. Since then it has trapped large amounts of leaves and a little soil to give it a muck bottom about a foot thick.

A dogwood overhangs the dam. The north bank has no trees near the pond but west and south of the pond are native species including hickory, beech, birch, oak, sycamore, sassafras, red maple, locust and a juniper overhanging the pond from the south bank. Japanese irises require almost full sun; yet here they grow magnificently in the shade. The north bank has full sun all day, the dam in morning only, and the south bank has no full sun. The plants along the dam and south bank show the effect of the shade by holding their flowers longer.

The bed was made by first constructing a terrace about 3 feet wide around the pond. Then a trench was dug about 2 feet wide and 10 inches deep in the terrace. The trench was then filled with muck shoveled from the pond and the irises were planted in this. Most of the irises planted here are 4 years old, a few older and a few younger. They seem to thrive well under these conditions as all flowers were huge; and the heights of each were better than ever. A few which I noted, all Mr. Payne's varieties except the first one, were:

SHINSO NO KAJAN: medium size, 6 to 7 inches across, 3 petals, standards are comparatively large and erect, giving this variety an appearance closer to the bearded iris. The spoonshaped standards are 1 1/4 inches high of pale blue, falls are medium width, white with a very faint bluish tint.

THE GREAT MOGUL: large, 3-petaled, streamlined, dark red-violet with slight blue-violet halo, 9 bloomstalks.

PRINCESS AURORA: large 3-petaled flower, light amparo purple to pale amparo purple, halo of light violet blends far out on petals, broad balls are overlapping and flaring, long standards are upright, waxy substance, 46 inches high, 7 bloomstalks.

SMILING BEAUTY: large single flower, broad horizontal falls have little ruffling; light color is embellished with Bradley's violet, lighter veins are formed by uniform medium sanding; medium size, oval, white-edged standards are Bradley's violet streaked and marbled white, cream colored styles same color on tips, 11 bloomstalks.

ROYAL TIGER: large, 3-petaled flower, slightly overlapping falls are white with a small halo of continga purple radiating out in heavy veins to edge of petals, small standards are same color with narrow blended edge of white, styles are solid continga purple, 39 inches high, 4 bloomstalks.

DISTANT ECHO: large 6-petaled flower, uniform shade between lavender-violet and pleroma violet with a large blended halo of royal purple, silky texture, 40 inches high, 9 bloomstalks.

DAME FORTUNE: large, flatly convex, 6-petaled flower, good substance, light ground with medium halo, stripes and light sanding of dark violet, dark violet styles, 42 inches high, 6 bloomstalks.

CLASSIC MODERN: large, 3 petaled flower, flaring form, falls have large white center blending into color between royal purple and hyacinth violet at edges, very large yellow signal patches, small ruffled standards and styles white edged same color, 3 bloomstalks.

SCHEHERAZADE: 6-petaled flower, heavy veins radiate from blended blue halo, medium sanding of violet pink on waved petals, center is solid mulberry purple, 43 inches high, 5 bloomstalks.

PRIMA BALLERINA: large, 6-petaled flower, light amparo purple, when well grown it closely approaches a true self-colored pink, rather horizontal, medium substance, 48 inches high.

ORCHID MAJESTY, DANSEUR NOBLE, IVORY GLOW AND WINGED CHARIOT were very beautifully grown here also.

Leaving Mr. Ouwenel's garden, we then proceeded to Mr. Swearengen's garden. In his front yard are two cement urns, one on each side of the yard, filled with brightly colored petunias. Nearby a few plants of "Candles of Heaven" were in full bloom.

The garden is on the north of the house. Here we find the traditional garden gate which leads into the garden. To our left is a planting of Japanese irises, rows running south to north: three long rows of Mr. Swearengen's named varieties, numbered seedlings, and a few of Mr. Payne's varieties; then a bed (8 plants wide) with varieties grown for increase, select seedlings for introduction, and plants under test. The varieties which have been registered are:

MIGHTY WHITE: 6-petaled flower of warm white, signal patch is chartreuse deepening to light green at haft, light ruffling, flower 8 1/2 to 9 inches across, 24 bloomstalks.

WHITE AND RIGHT: is almost the same as Mighty White, but more heavily ruffled, 12 bloomstalks.

VESTAL TRIDENT: seedling #41, leathery substance, candelabra branching, 6 to 9 petals, nicely ruffled, yellow signals deepening into a chartreuse halo which radiates into short veins on the pure white petals, 3 little tubes resembling rosettes rise between the styles, 43 bloomstalks on 3-year clump.

Seedlings soon to be registered:

#40: 6-petaled flower 8 1/2 inches across, deep yellow signal, medium blue halo extends almost halfway on each petal then darkens to reddish navy blue, nicely ruffled, 17 bloomstalks.

#412: 6-petaled flower of cobalt blue with medium blue halo and yellow signal patches, 38 inches high, 6 bloomstalks.

#250: 6-petaled flower two shades lighter than #412, 34 inches high, 10 bloomstalks.

Other seedlings, imports and species:

#150: (Sky and Water X #136): allover appearance of pale blue, rolling of outer petal edges, crepe paper texture.

#102: marbled mulberry red, blue halo, yellow signal, one branch.

- #64-41: 6-petaled flower, yellow signal, medium blue halo running onto petals of pale light blue, pale orchid styles.
- #64-36: flower 10 inches across, dark to pale lavender on white, smooth substance, good texture.
- #64-42: 6-petaled flower, blue-violet bitone with medium blue halo, one branch.
- #64-38: 6-petaled flower, deep purple, yellow signal, velvetlike substance.
- #64-1: 3-petaled flower with crested center, yellow signal patches on white falls with blue halo that radiates out into purple veining, standards red-purple with white wire edging, styles purple.
- Iris kaempferi: species, small 3-petaled flower of reddish-purple.
- YAMATO-NISHIKA: import, white with mulberry red veining, 8 bloomstalks.
- NISIKA-GI: 6-petaled flower, pearl white heavily striated and mottled imperial purple and light blue, styles white with deep purple edging, 42 inches high, 3 bloomstalks.

Just east of this planting is a larger area... this is not all planted in iris. There are two full rows, running east to west, of Mr. Payne's varieties. Strut and Flourish, Shadow Play, Cobra Dancer and Sky and Water were a few varieties displaying their wondrous beauty.

Other beds in this area are only half the length of the above rows. These beds are near the northeast end of the garden area. Here there is a four-foot wide breeder's bed; an old seedling bed to be remade this year; another four-foot wide bed of seedlings, Mr. Marx's named varieties, other imports, more of Mr. Payne's varieties. The last bed is mostly Mr. Payne's varieties except for a small planting of Mr. Swaengen's named seedlings on the east end.

Just beyond this is a corral (fenced in on three sides) of bearded irises: remontants, intermediates, lilliputs and miniature dwarfs. A large number of the smaller irises are species. White pallida was here; also 12 varieties of species he received from Czechoslovakia last year. These were planted on a raised mound: two varietatas, three aphyllas, 1 taurica, and six pumilas.

This has been a most wonderful season for the blooming of Japanese irises; for here in my garden Mr. Payne's Swirling Waves, Prima Ballerina, Strut and Flourish, Scheherezade, Ivory Glow, Gay Festoon, Confetti Shower, Dancing Waves, and Mr. Marx's Midsummer Reverie put forth lovely flowers. My husband, Jim, and I truly enjoy these magnificent flowers; and we hope to add a few more varieties this year. We already have a new bed made up especially for Japanese irises, and hope to plant more of them in the near future.

A NEW GARDEN TO SEE

Ralph J. Hartman, Superintendent of the Department of Public Parks, reports that the city of Providence, Rhode Island is in the midst of restoring a Japanese garden in Roger Williams Park. Mrs. Henry D. Sharpe, who has visited Japan four times is in charge of the project.

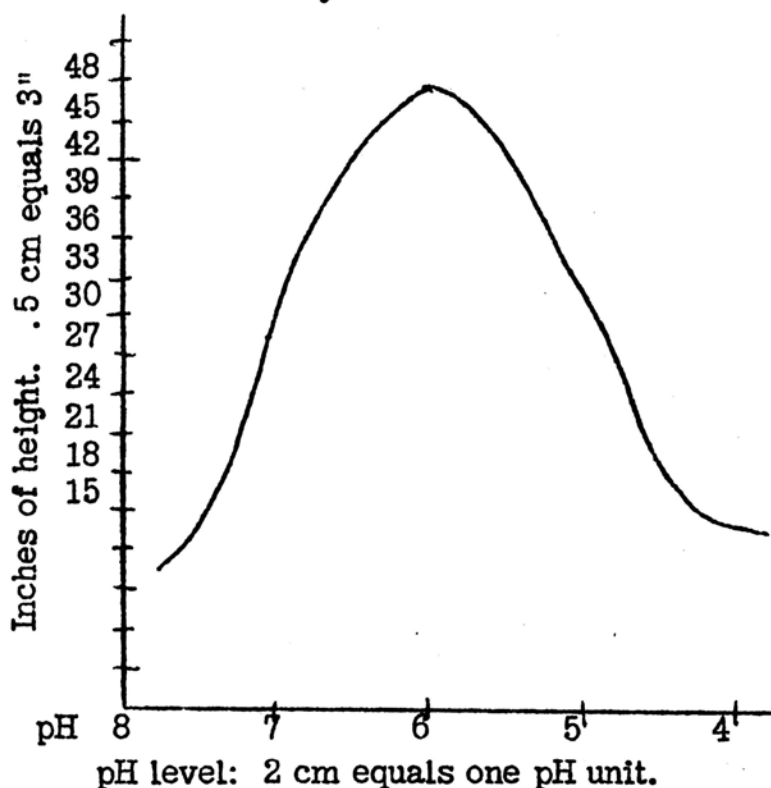
A NEW SOURCE FOR PLANTS

Our apologies to Mary and Phil Cammer for inadvertently omitting the Cammer Iris Gardens from our source list in the last issue of THE REVIEW. The Cammers are now growing 31 named varieties of Japanese irises including W.A. Payne, Walter Marx and Cloyd Sensenbach varieties in addition to seedlings of their own.

SOIL ACIDITY AND ITS COMPARATIVE EFFECT ON PLANT SOIL ACIDITY AND ITS COMPARATIVE EFFECT ON PLANT GROWTH

C. A. Swearengen

This is a report on 35 complete tests where the acidity was the only variable of consequence. Soil was rich clay-loam to which sufficient potash and phosphate had been added to bring the test to high for potash and very high for phosphate, thirty days after the addition. Only a small quantity was required as the soil had been well treated with well rotted cow manure and compost and the humus content was known to be high. Plants were two years old at the time of the tests and were well established in their respective locations. Plant tissue tests were run at each location to determine as nearly as possible the comparative amounts of nitrogen, potash and phosphate present. The results were very conclusive as to the effect that soil acidity has on the assimilation of necessary nutrients where they exist in sufficient or excess quantities.



A curve was plotted to show the height at the various pH levels and it indicates a desirable range of pH 5.5 to 6.5 with 5.8 appearing to be the optimum level at which greatest growth occurs when nutrition is not a factor. Plants at nine additional locations were also tested where the nutrient level was at the top end of the low range and the pH at or very near the optimum. In these locations plants were less vigorous and from 7 to 10% shorter, but number of buds was not diminished nor was branching less than under ideal conditions. Where the pH level was changed in the 35 sites the effect was quite noticeable. At pH 6.8 no plant retained more than one branch and no branches

were found above pH 7.6. No plants lived past pH 8. On the other end of the curve the first branch was lost at pH 4.8 and none were found at the pH 4.2 level. No plants lived below pH 3.8.

It is my conclusion, based on these tests and years of experience, that while plants may live and grow to maturity, poor results will be had unless a pH range of from 5.5 to 6.5 is maintained.

No tests were run in the area where the bearded irises are grown but no serious effects were noted where the range was known to be about pH 6.5, nor was there any disease noted but some of this might be due to cultural practices. It would seem desirable that similar tests be run with the bearded irises.

*This test was run only with Japanese irises.

JAPANESE IRISES

Nancy Crist

These magnificent flowers of beauty
Created by a loving hand,
Have a most interesting family tree,
Which can be traced to a foreign land.

Only a person with art appreciation
Could learn to grow and hybridize
These flowers of many a color combination,
Which grow eight or more inches across in size.

These flowers have many shapes and sizes...
Three, six, nine, or more petals.
In Flower Show in sixty-three they won prizes;
In Germany, awarded bronze and silver medals.

They reign with a proud majestic air
Atop straight stems, reaching a lofty height.
Several branches and buds add that extra flare,
With slender green foliage completing this wondrous sight.

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Diseases

Dr. Shuichi Hirao writes that some of the members of the Japan Iris Society report a trouble similar to winter killing. They claim that big clumps which seem sound until foliage dies in late fall never come up in the spring. When this trouble breaks out the entire garden will be lost. In regard to rust, he says, "This is a big problem for a large garden. I mean the disease which is called "Scorch" among British gardeners. In spring, the new shoots may sprout normally, but they turn yellow-brown and are stunted. Finally they may disappear from the earth resulting in the entire death of a large clump which seemed normal the previous fall. Mr. Mitsuda, who is a member of our Society, claims this disease is likely to be caused by some microorganism which attacks Jap iris three times a year, namely, early spring, early summer and mid fall. The plants suffering and turning yellow in spring are the ones attacked last fall. He says that a fungicide, Sanquinone from the Sankyo Co. Lt. in Japan was most effective in preventing it. I found this disease in many places abroad on Siberians, tall bearded irises and Japs. I warned my friends whenever I noticed the disease. It was only a few years ago that many parks were terribly damaged by this disease, in spite of the long history since we have been aware of this trouble. I and our people had been believing that this disease does not spread much. Not it is the worst enemy for Jap iris. Annually repotted plants seldom suffer from Scorch, possibly due to the freshness of the soil or the compost. Microorganisms of Scorch are said to spread with the contaminated soil."